to Bombay-Ahmedabad section. Its implementation was not found feasible as the drastic changes proposed in the timings would adversely affect large number of commuters and withdrawal of many stoppages would be strongly resented by the present users of these services.

Maintenance of Birth Place of Mahatma Gandhi at Porbunder

1747. DR. SHANTI G. PATEL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state what steps are being taken by Government to restore the inner portion *i.e.* the kitchen of the house, where Mahatma Gandhi was born, to the national monument at Porbunder and also to prevent its further sinking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : The inner portion of the house is in a good state of preservation; the kitchen floor has a conventional deep slope and according to information is not sinking.

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12 00 NOON

RE EXPUNCTION OF REFERENCE TO APPOINTMENT OF AN OFFICER IN THE RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT

MR. CHAIRMAN : On going through the proceedings of the House yesterday, I noticed that Shri P.N. Sukul, while participating in the discussion on the Administrative Tribunals (Amendment) Bill, 1986, referred to a certain appointment of an officer made by me in the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. I do not know whether he was aware of the well-established convention that matters pertaining to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat and the functioning of the Chairman or reference to officers of either House in debate is not proper. If any Member has any grievance pertaining to the functioning of the Secretariat, the appropriate course for him is to approach me or the Secretary-General and not to raise the same on the floor of the House. This salutary convention has all along been followed because by adhering to this convention the House is able to secure the services of the officers in the Secretariat impartially and without fear or favour.

Secondly, when such matters are raised on the floor of the House, they go unanswered. The Minister who is responsible for answering the criticism about the Department or about the contents of the Bill is not in a position to reply to the criticism about the functioning of our Secretatiat or any of its officers. The Chair while presiding cannot defend the action or answer the criticism.

I am bringing this to the notice of the House so that we adhere to this established convention and not raise matters pertaining to the Secretaritat. Any Member is always welcome to see me with respect to any matter relating to functioning of the Secretariat. I have therefore ordered the particular portion of Shri Sukul's speech where reference is made to this appointment to be expunged.

SHRI P.N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh) : Sir, it is. . .

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

SHRI P.N. SUKUL*:

MR CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record. Will you please sit down? Papers to be laid.

*Not recorded.